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Suns shine over Rockets in 4-point win

HOUSTON (AP) — Walter Davis scored nine of his 24 points in the final 2:41 to lead the Phoenix Suns to a 106-102 NBA win over the Houston Rockets Tuesday night.

With his team trailing 98-94, Davis hit two field goals and connected on five of six free throws to secure the win for the Suns.

Akeem Olajuwon led the Rockets with 24 points and 20 rebounds, while the other Twin Tower, Ralph Sampson, had 22 points and 13 rebounds.

The Suns, 12-11, scored 10 straight points early in the fourth quarter to cut Houston's lead to 87-81.

After Houston led 97-86 with 5:06 remaining, the Suns outscored the Rockets 10-1 to pull within two, 98-96.

Houston, 9-12, dominated the early play, leading 16-9 midway through the first quarter.

The Suns battled back to lead 28-26, going into the second quarter. Sampson sparked Houston's second-quarter performance, scoring 14 points in the final seven minutes of the quarter to give the Rockets a 57-46 advantage at the half.

The Rockets increased their lead in the third quarter, leading 78-57 midway through the period.

But the Suns cut their deficit to 75-71 going into the fourth quarter by outscoring Houston 7-2 in the final minute of the quarter.

Alvan Adams aided the Suns' cause with 20 points.

TANK McNAMARA®

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Police official says officer wasn't 'laying for' Gooden

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A Tampa police official Tuesday labeled "totally untrue" Dwight Gooden's claim that officers were "laying for" him when they arrested the New York Mets pitcher and placed him in wrist and ankle restraints during a weekend scuffle.

"I am not aware of any policeman laying for him," Tampa Police Col. Earl Williams said. "He was handcuffed after several minutes of combat with police officers. He was a violent offender."

Williams reviewed records of the Saturday night incident and said at one point Gooden, 22, took off a gold necklace, stuffed it in his pocket and told officers: "You're not going to take me anywhere."

With that statement "the stage was

set. He was ready to fight," according to Williams, who called the police action appropriate.

Gooden, 17-6 during the Mets' world championship season, was arrested on charges of battery on a police officer, resisting arrest with violence, disorderly conduct and traffic infractions.

"The officer had no idea who it was when he was stopped on routine traffic violations," Williams said.

He said Gooden's charge that it seemed like a setup was absurd.

Gooden told *New York Newsday* that "one guy pulled a gun and shoved the barrel into my neck."

Williams confirmed an officer did pull a gun, but said: "I don't know if he shoved it into his neck."

According to police accounts, of Gooden's companions, Lovelace, had knocked down the officer while Gooden struggled with another.

"Gooden had gotten hold of the officer's holster. In the officer's opinion, the guy was trying to get control of his firearm and he was taking it to other officers who were trying to take his gun," Williams said.

The statement was made in a statement, Williams claimed. Another officer thought Gooden had a gun and patted him down, Williams said.

Gooden's agent, Jim Neenan, Tuesday he has talked at length with Gooden about the incident. Whether he nor I can comment on anything about the case."

Ditka's Bear-like personality points to his strong desire to be a winner

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — Submerged somewhere deep in Chicago Bears Coach Mike Ditka's personality — real deep, some would say — is a pussycat struggling to get out.

But don't count on it happening anytime soon.

"I think it's silly to keep a camera on the coach, especially on this coach," Ditka said Tuesday, the day after his nationally televised tirade against his team ignited a 13-point, fourth-quarter rally that carried the Bears to a 16-13 victory over the Detroit Lions.

"With some guys it's probably OK, you just put people to sleep.

But when you keep it (the camera) on me," he continued, "it makes guys want to go out and buy guns and hand grenades."

"I've seen him worse," admitted quarterback Doug Flutie, who began the night on the sidelines, finished it impressively, but sandwiched enough miscues in between to earn much of Ditka's wrath.

"In fact, in some ways, he's probably been easier on me than on some of the other guys," continued Flutie, the 1984 Heisman Trophy winner from Boston College who signed with the Bears just weeks earlier.

"I think he realized my situa-

tion coming in here was tough enough and I think he was trying to give me every opportunity," Flutie said. "But it got to the point, finally, where he saw some things that were frustrating him — and believe me, they were frustrating me, too — and he felt he had to do something."

Ditka's outburst Monday night was probably as important an element as any other in rallying the Bears.

"That's the great thing about Mike," safety Dave Duerson said. "He can cut loose with the tongue, rake you, and then just as quickly, forget about it — as long as we win."

Flutie grabs spotlight from Long

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Doug Flutie, as he did during his college days, stole the thunder from Chuck Long.

In his senior year at Boston College, Flutie won the 1984 Heisman Trophy. In his senior year at Iowa, Long finished second in the 1985 Heisman balloting.

Before Monday night's game between the Bears and Lions, Long got most of the attention because he was making his first NFL start. In the end it was Flutie, however, who came off the bench to lead the Bears to a 16-13 comeback victory and improved their chances for the homefield advantage throughout the playoffs.

"I think Doug played good," Chicago Coach Mike Ditka said. "I, of course, have to look at the film, but he did what he was trying to do. Next week we'll start Doug and probably play Steve Fuller some."

Ditka looked anything but pleased at times during the game, shouting and gesturing at Flutie.

"Coach got on me a couple of times for mistakes, but that's his job," Flutie said. "I've got to perform consistently and make the big plays in order for the team to accept me as a leader."

Flutie, taking over after Mike Tomczak was injured in the first quarter, completed 13 of 24 passes for 130 yards. Long connected on 12 of 24 passes for 167

yards, including a 4-yard touchdown toss to Leonard Thompson.

Both Flutie and Long threw one interception.

Long impressed both Ditka and Lions' Coach Darryl Rogers.

"I think he played well, I really do," Ditka said.

Rogers said Long would start the Lions' finale against the Atlanta Falcons Sunday, but wouldn't speculate whether that meant that either Eric Hipple or Joe Ferguson was out of the running for Detroit's quarterbacking job next season.

"It's rather obvious he has a long ways to go," Rogers said. "It's also obvious his future is bright."

Hoyt receives 45-day term in drug case

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Luis Hoyt, who won the Cy Young Award in 1983, drew a 45-day term in drug conviction Tuesday from United States magistrate who have put the Padres right-handed pitcher for up to two years.

"It has nothing to do with being a baseball star," Magistrate Roger McKee said of the lesser sentence. "As far as I'm concerned, is the appropriate punishment."

Hoyt must surrender to federal marshals Jan. 5 to start serving sentence, which also includes years probation, a \$10,000 fine and forfeiture to the government of a \$33,000 sports car.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick was visibly upset with McKee's decision, saying it violated a plea bargain in which Hoyt agreed to spend at least 60 days in prison. Hoyt was guilty Nov. 13 to two misdemeanor drug counts, each carrying a maximum one-year term.

Hoyt, signed through 1987 contract paying him about \$1 million a year, admitted in his plea that he tried to smuggle nearly 500 Valium tranquilizers and propoxyphene painkiller tablets across the Mexico border. It was Hoyt's drug-related brush with the law.

Although he remains on the Padres' protected 40-man roster, Hoyt's future with the team is limbo. The Padres previously traded players with recurring problems.

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